2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

6 June 2005

Original: English

Summary record of the 9th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 6 May 2005, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de Queiroz Duarte ..... (Brazil)

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05-33589 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that, although many had hoped for a world free of the nuclear menace when the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) had entered into force in 1970, the world had not ceased to be haunted by the threat of nuclear catastrophe. However, the Treaty could still rid the world of nuclear weapons, provided that the States parties — both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States — rapidly fulfilled their respective commitments on the basis of the Treaty's three pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

2. Whereas vertical non-proliferation continued to be a subject of great concern, considerable progress had been made in the area of horizontal non-proliferation, as reflected notably in the continued development of nuclear-weapon-free zones. In that regard, the Government of Mexico should be congratulated for organizing the April 2005 Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. Those African States that had not yet ratified the African nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) should do so as soon as possible in order to ensure its rapid entry into force. Moreover, Israel should ratify the NPT and submit its facilities to the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to facilitate the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

3. Recalling his country's accession to the 1991 Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, he urged all States — particularly those that conducted nuclear programmes — to comply strictly with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 58/40 on the prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes (A/RES/58/40).

4. Considerable work remained to be done in the areas of vertical non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, in accordance with article VI of the NPT. All States parties to the Conference on Disarmament, especially nuclear-weapon States, should demonstrate the flexibility and commitment required to ensure that the Conference functioned effectively. His delegation continued to support the programme of work proposed by the group of five ambassadors, which offered a credible basis for negotiations.

5. Senegal fully endorsed the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, which stated that the only real guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons remained their complete elimination. Implementation of the 13 steps on nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 Review Conference would help achieve that objective, and notable in that regard was the agreement to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It was also imperative that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) should enter into force as soon as possible. Lastly, his delegation wished to reaffirm the right of States to exploit nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with article IV of the NPT.

6. **Mr. Baatar** (Mongolia) said that the NPT was the most important legally binding instrument available to the international community to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. Attaining absolute universality of the Treaty was crucial to the global non-proliferation regime. The accession of Cuba and Timor-Leste to the Treaty was to be welcomed, and India, Israel and Pakistan should join the Treaty as non-nuclear States as soon as possible.

7. It was regrettable that the 13 steps on nuclear disarmament set forth in article VI of the NPT had not yet been fully implemented, and the 2005 Review Conference provided a welcome opportunity to make further progress in that regard. His delegation wished to reiterate its strong support for the CTBT, as well as the importance of its early entry into force and universality, and called on all States that had not yet signed and/or ratified that Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

8. Negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices were long overdue, and the scope of such a treaty should include pre-existing stocks. It was regrettable that the related resolution (resolution 59/81), which was traditionally adopted by consensus, had required a vote for its adoption at the General Assembly's fifty-ninth session. Mongolia welcomed the commitment made by the United States of America and the Russian Federation under the 2002 Strategic

Offensive Reductions Treaty ("Moscow Treaty"), and joined the Secretary-General in urging the two parties concerned to pursue arms control agreement that entailed not just dismantlement but also irreversibility.

9. Mongolia fully agreed with previous speakers that the global non-proliferation regime faced many challenges. Ownership and control of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems was no longer confined to States, and in that regard, his delegation had been dismayed at the revelations concerning the clandestine procurement network of Abdul Qadeer Khan. A number of international initiatives had been taken with a view to reversing that dangerous trend, notably Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Mongolia also welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

10. The credibility of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament measures depended to a large extent on the effectiveness of their verification regimes. In that regard, Mongolia wished to reaffirm its commitment to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards system and its additional protocols. It also wished to underscore the inalienable right of non-nuclear-weapon States to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

11. Nuclear-weapon-free zones were a crucial element of the global non-proliferation regime. Mongolia had been consistent in its support of the existing zones and commended the Government of Mexico for organizing the April 2005 Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, at which representatives had expressed their recognition and full support of Mongolia's international nuclear-weapon-free status. The outcome of the Conference had also been welcomed by the Non-Aligned Movement. Lastly, Mongolia was a vocal advocate of a nuclear-weapon-free Korean peninsula, and therefore strongly supported the multilateral process aimed at resolving the issue peacefully.

Adoption of the agenda

The meeting was suspended at 10.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

12. **The President** drew attention to the provisional agenda and the related statement of the President (NPT/CONF.2005/CRP.1 and CRP.2, respectively), which had been endorsed by the members of the General Committee. If there was no objection, he would take it that the meeting wished to adopt the two documents.

13. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that, to reach consensus, all points of view must be taken into consideration. The shift in approach reflected in the provisional agenda and the accompanying President's statement would be acceptable to Egypt with two minor amendments. First, to reflect previously used wording, the phrase "in the light of" in the first line of the President's statement should be replaced with the words "taking into account". Secondly, in the second line of the statement the words "and the outcomes" should be inserted after the word "resolution".

14. **The President** said he regretted that his proposal could not be adopted by consensus. However, he was confident that the Conference would continue to rely on his services as President to achieve consensus on the agenda. It was vital to begin working on substantive issues as soon as possible, and he therefore called on all interested delegations to continue consultations with a view to finding a solution to the current impasse as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at noon.